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Bath Man Makes Denial...

Spy Report Termed False

NEW YORK (UPI) — Two young U.S. tourists who were deported from Russia after being detained on spy charges for seven weeks denied Thursday they were agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Harvey C. Bennett, 26, of Bath, Maine, categorically denied they were espionage agents after they landed here from Europe. Drew Pearson, a syndicated columnist, had written that they worked for the CIA.

"I CAN SAY DEFINITELY that I was not a CIA agent," said Kaminsky.

"This report is completely false," said Bennett.

Kaminsky was sentenced to seven years in jail in Kiev on charges of espionage, but was expelled instead of serving his sentence. Bennett was detained as a material witness before and during the trial.

The two insisted they were simply tourists not doing anything "incompatible" with activities of a regular tourist. Kaminsky said he was gathering material for a book whose title was to be "The Soviets Talk About Peace and Prepare For War."

KAMINSKY WAS MET at the airport by Airtelle Kuhn, 25, of Grosse Pointe, Mich., and her mother. Bennett was met by his wife, Rena, 26. Both have been requested to file a report on their detention with the State Department.

An air of mystery shrouded the source of the funds received by Bennett and Kaminsky for their Russian trip.

Bennett said they received a \$2,000 grant from Northcraft Educational Foundation of Philadelphia. Kaminsky said it was "strictly an educational fund."

However in Philadelphia the foundation's attorney said it was not a Philadelphia insti-



Bath Couple's Happy Reunion

Harvey C. Bennett is embraced by his wife, the former Rena Legard of Bath, upon his arrival at Idlewild Airport after he was expelled from Russia. (AP)

tution. He said it maintains an office in Philadelphia, but has headquarters "in the Midwest." The attorney said the pair received a grant before the visit to Russia, but reports about \$2,000 were "erroneous." He declined to comment further.

The attorney also declined to comment about the founda-

tion and referred all queries to the State Department.

The department said Northcraft was a group of relatively prosperous businessmen who finance trips abroad for scholars and students. It quoted the foundation attorney as that Northcraft was composed of persons "who don't want publicity."

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